ISSUE 03

AGRIVIEW

APRIL 2009 VOLUME 5

Cattle and Hog Support Program announced page 2

Minister's Message

The provincial government recognizes the challenges cattle and hog producers continue to face. On February 26, 2009, I announced a $71 million Saskatchewan Cattle and Hog Support Program. I hope this program will help cattle and hog producers retain their breeding herds and address some immediate cash flow needs.

Under the Saskatchewan Cattle and Hog Support Program, Saskatchewan cattle producers will be eligible for a $40 per head payment for all beef breeding cows and bred beef heifers owned as of January 1, 2009. Hog Producers will be eligible for $20 per market hog sold and $10 per head for all iso-weanlings, weanlings and feeder hogs produced between July 1, 2008, and January 31, 2009.

We maintain that a national solution is the best way to address the current crisis in the cattle and hog industries. However, immediate action was necessary and we felt we had to take the lead at the provincial level. We feel we are committing our 40 per cent share of a reasonable, short-term assistance package for cattle and hog producers.

The cattle and hog industries are vital to the future success of the Saskatchewan economy. We will continue to work with producers to address challenges facing the industry.

We realize this assistance will not solve all the problems facing cattle and hog producers, but I hope it will help address some of their immediate needs in this challenging period.

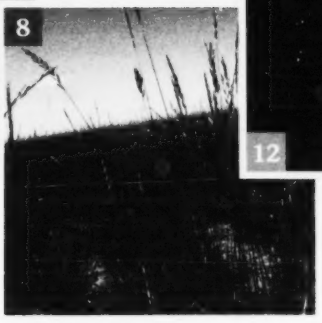
Sincerely,

Bob Bjornerud

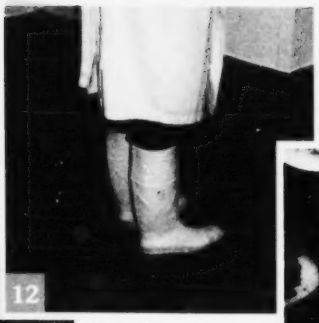
Bob Bjornerud
Minister of Agriculture

STORY SNAPSHOTS

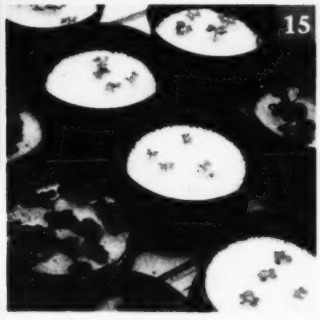
Pesticide Licensing



Grazing rotation



Biosecurity



Bio-fuel byproducts

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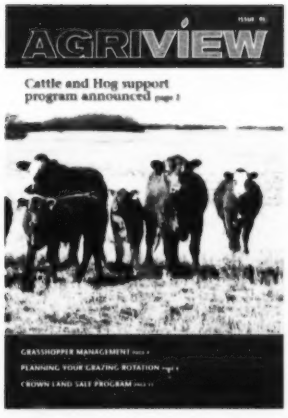

Cover: Saskatchewan Cattle and Hog Support Program information on page 16.

Saskatchewan Agriculture

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To view this publication online, visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/programs-services.

Herbicide-Resistant Kochia Dominates the Prairies

by Clark Brenzil, PAg
Provincial Weed Control Specialist
Crops Branch

Herbicide-resistant kochia is now the dominant type on the Prairies, and Saskatchewan producers should plan their cropping rotations on the assumption that Group 2 herbicides are unlikely to control their kochia populations.

Kochia is as mobile as a tumbleweed, highly prolific and shares its genes generously with others of its kind. This is the perfect recipe for the development of herbicide resistance. Because no two kochia are exactly alike, the odds of at least one plant having the genes that give it natural resistance to a particular herbicide are much greater than other plants.

Group 2 herbicides were seen as a leap forward in herbicide technology, given their low toxicity to animals, fish and humans, and ultra-low use rates of merely grams per acre. Unfortunately, only five years after their introduction to Western Canada, resistance was reported in kochia and Russian thistle in Saskatchewan.

Now, Group 2 herbicide-resistant kochia is thought to be the dominant biotype. A study by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives found that roughly 85 per cent of the populations surveyed to be resistant. A Prairie-wide study by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Saskatoon found that roughly 90 per cent of the populations surveyed were resistant to all subgroups of Group 2 herbicides.

Producers should plan their rotations taking into account that Group 2 herbicides are unlikely to control their kochia populations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca; or
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Surveys suggest that roughly 90 per cent of kochia infestations are resistant to Group 2 herbicides.

BIOCONTROL OF GRASSHOPPERS

by Daphne Gottselig, BSA, PAg
Crops Specialist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

A naturally occurring Alberta strain of an entomopathogenic (insect-feeding) fungus, *Metarhizium anisopliae*, has been found to be an effective grasshopper control.

Photo: Dan Johnson, University of Lethbridge. A two-striped grasshopper killed by M. anisopliae. Spores have formed and the leg has broken off.

In the laboratory, this fungus kills grasshoppers within one week of infection. In the field, fungus spores suspended in water are sprayed onto the crop. Best results are obtained by targeting the third and fourth immature stages, although recent field tests have successfully controlled adult stages. The spores germinate on the insect's exoskeleton and penetrate. They proliferate inside the insect, releasing agents that kill it slowly over a period of four days, while reducing feeding activity. After about one week, the insect dies or is close to death.

A recent Saskatchewan study showed the fungus performed equivalent to that of a registered insecticide, 15 days after application. Researchers at the University of Lethbridge and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Lethbridge are conducting research on this fungus.

Other naturally occurring enemies of grasshoppers include bee flies, blister beetles, ground beetles, crickets and several kinds of flies that lay eggs or maggots in living grasshoppers. Another naturally occurring fungus, *Entomophaga grylli*, also controls grasshoppers, whose corpses can be seen clinging to plant stems after infection.

Remember that not all grasshoppers are crop pests. Of the 80 grasshopper species on the Canadian Prairies, only about 10 species cause problems for agriculture producers. Among these pest species, some will prefer certain crops over others. Time should be taken to identify the species correctly before considering control products.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca, or
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Get the most out of your nitrogen

by Patrick Mooleki, PhD, PAg
Soil/Nutrient Management Specialist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

Nitrogen (N) is one of the four major nutrients required by all crops. The others are phosphorus, potassium and sulphur.

Most crops require large amounts of nitrogen, as outlined in the table below. Except for legume crops, which can fix the bulk of their nitrogen requirements from the air, all other crops may require application of large quantities of fertilizer to meet these nitrogen requirements.

Nitrogen (N) requirements of various crops: Canadian Fertilizer Institute (2001)

A 40 bushel per acre spring wheat crop takes up 76 to 93 pounds of N per acre;
An 80 bushel per acre barley crop takes up 100 to 122 pounds of N per acre;
A 35 bushel per acre canola crop takes up 100 to 123 pounds of N per acre;
A 50 bushel per acre pea crop needs 138 to 168 pounds of N per acre; and
A 24 bushel per acre flax crop takes up 62 to 76 pounds of N per acre.

Not all the nitrogen applied is used by the crop. Some is lost through various ways such as volatilization and denitrification, or is temporarily tied-up by a process called immobilization. Producers can minimize these losses by using various techniques.

Guidelines to help reduce nitrogen losses and improve nitrogen use efficiency:

- Conduct a soil test to determine the actual amount of nutrients needed to get a realistic target yield.
- Determine soil moisture by probing your fields and consider potential growing-season precipitation to determine a reasonable target yield for your area.
- Apply all nutrients that are deficient to ensure a proper balance of nutrients.
- Apply the nitrogen fertilizer as close to seeding time as possible.
- Banding nitrogen into the soil at seeding time is the most frequently used method of application. Band some starter fertilizer with or near the seed. This usually is a phosphate fertilizer or a blended product. Bear in mind the safe rate of seed-placed nutrients for seed-row applications. The balance of the nitrogen fertilizer can be side- or mid-row banded or even banded in a separate operation.
- If you have to surface-apply urea-containing fertilizer (46:0:0 or 28:0:0), use a urease inhibitor to minimize ammonia volatilization, or surface apply a polycoated urea.
- Choose the form of nitrogen fertilizer that can be applied more efficiently with your equipment, soil moisture availability and the time available.
- Visit [illegible] under Production | Crops - Fertilizer/Nutrients | Nitrogen Fertilization in Crop Production; or
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 or your nearest Regional Services Office.

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE USE

by Jude Kachaluba
Pesticide Licensing Officer
Crops Branch

If you're planning to hire a commercial pesticide applicator to conduct your custom spraying in 2009, ensure that the company and its applicators hold valid pesticide licenses.

Individuals or businesses offering commercial pesticide application services must hold a valid Pesticide Service License issued by Saskatchewan Agriculture.

Individuals hired to apply pesticides must also hold a valid Pesticide Applicator License, from Saskatchewan Agriculture.

Safe handling and application of pesticides is extremely important

The purposes of the service license and the applicator license are:

- to ensure that businesses offering commercial pesticide application services are conducting their operations in a safe and responsible manner, and;

- to ensure that the applicators are knowledgeable about the safe application of the pesticides.

All individuals who apply for a Pesticide Applicator License are required to take the Pesticide Applicator Training Program before they can obtain the license.

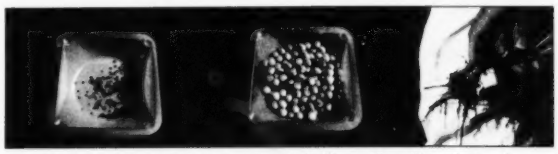
The Pesticide Applicator Training Program is offered by the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST). Classroom sessions are usually delivered by Regional Colleges across the province. Please contact your local Regional College for details. Home study courses are also available through SIAST.

- Phone Jude Kachaluba, Pesticide Licensing Officer, Crops Branch, Saskatchewan Agriculture, at (306) 787-4662;
- Phone SIAST toll-free at 1-866-467-4278, or e-mail [illegible];
- Visit SIAST's website at [illegible] and click on Distance Learning Programs and Courses; or
- Visit the Queen's Printer website at [illegible] to access *The Pest Control Products (Sask.) Act* and *The Pest Control Products Regulations, 1995*.

Inoculating Pulse Crops

by Ken Panchuk, PAg
Provincial Soils Specialist
Crops Branch

Pulse crops can obtain a large part of their nitrogen requirements from the soil air surrounding the roots. This is accomplished by a mutually beneficial relationship between the pulse plant and soil bacteria called *Rhizobium*. The species of *Rhizobium* is specific to each pulse crop so the appropriate crop will appear on the inoculant product label. Producers should order the inoculant from their input dealers as soon as they have put together their cropping plans, in order that the inoculant companies can provide adequate supplies for the planting season. Inoculants contain living organisms. They are produced annually, just ahead of the planting season, to ensure a fresh, vigorous product and to comply with the registration requirements.



From left: Granular inoculant, pea seed treated with peat based inoculant and nodules on the chickpea roots.

Producers are encouraged to inoculate their pulse crops every year and follow label directions. Soils have naturally occurring *Rhizobium species* and some residual populations from previous crops, but to optimize nitrogen fixation, a fresh inoculant containing superior strains needs to be applied every time a pulse crop is seeded. At Pulse Days 2009, data from recent field and growth cabinet research showed that annual inoculation is necessary, even on long-term pulse land, to enhance nitrogen fixation and maximize pulse crop yields.

There are added benefits to inoculating pulse crops, such as increased nitrogen levels left in the plant residue and roots to provide a high nitrogen-credit for the next crop in the rotation. Fields that test low in available nitrogen are good economic choices for planting pulse crops, providing that the other rotational considerations for pests and possible herbicide residues are met.

Pulse crops also require phosphorus for plant development, nodule formation and the nitrogen fixation process. Peas are sensitive to seed-placed phosphate, so do not exceed the safe rate of 15 pounds of actual phosphate per acre. Lentil and chickpea are slightly more tolerant to seed-placed phosphate. *JumpStart*, a phosphorus solubilizing inoculant, can also be used to increase the availability of soil and fertilizer phosphorus.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 or your nearest regional office.
- Additional information, such as the following fact sheets, Inoculation of Pulse Crops and Phosphorus in Crop Production can be obtained on the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture's website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca under Crops - Fertilizer/Nutrients.

SASKATCHEWAN SUNFLOWER COMMITTEE CO-OPERATIVE TRIALS

by Elaine Moats, PAg
Regional Crop Specialist
Regional Services Branch

The Saskatchewan Sunflower Committee was formed in 1983 to test sunflower varieties that may be suited to the province's growing conditions.

These variety trials serve two important purposes. First, the official Saskatchewan Sunflower Trial results can be used for variety registration purposes. Second, the committee publishes an annual summary of the test results. These summaries are posted on the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca. Under the current registration system, the test results of the varieties that are registered for production in Canada are entered in the Ministry's Varieties of Grain Crops annual publication. A hard copy of this publication is available from all Ministry of Agriculture regional offices or it may be downloaded from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture website.

Mesh bags protect the sunflower heads, and the year's research, from bird feeding damage. Photo: Cliff Powlowski, Sunflower Trial Co-ordinator in a research plot.

This testing program has been co-ordinated by Cliff Powlowski since 1983. It provides important variety information for farmers at a minimal cost. In 2008, there were five dryland trials and one irrigated site. There are plans for a total of eight sites throughout the province in 2009. Funding is provided by testing fees paid by companies submitting entries.

The committee's tests are divided into two groups of sunflowers. One group is later maturing, tall stature hybrids. The other group is early maturing short stature (EMSS) cultivars. All of the varieties tested in 2008 were oilseed types, two of which have the mid-oleic, or NuSun, fatty acid profile desired by major frying companies. Another variety of note is the open pollinated EMSS variety, AC Sierra, which may be of interest to organic growers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Elaine Moats, Regional Crop Specialist at (306) 848-2856, or by e-mail at elaine.moats@gov.sk.ca; or
- Jim Thorson, Chairperson, Saskatchewan Sunflower Committee at (306) 488-4814 or by e-mail at thorsonf@sasktel.net.

Integrated Pest Management

by Brent Flaten PAg, CCA
Integrated Pest Management Specialist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

Integrated pest management is defined as a decision making process that uses all necessary techniques to suppress pests effectively, economically and in an environmentally sound manner. There are several steps to integrated pest management.

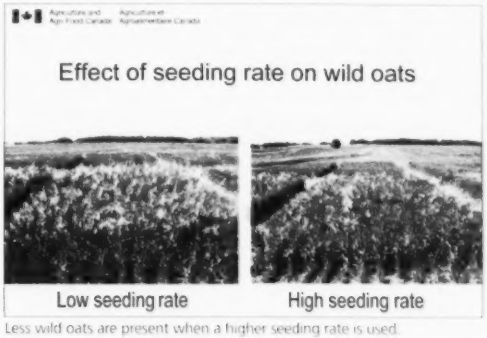
First of all, identify potential pests. This includes being able to identify pests (weeds, diseases and insects), the stage when crop is susceptible to damage and the stage for pesticide application if required. Also recognize that beneficial organisms, such as parasites of pests, play an important role in pest management.

Monitor pest and beneficial organisms. Scout fields to determine population changes and potential damage to crops. Look for insect and disease forecasts or alerts by Saskatchewan Agriculture or private industry agronomists. Consider environmental conditions. Weather can have profound effects on pest and beneficial organism populations.

Manage the crop environment to prevent organisms from becoming pests as much as possible. For example, alternating types of crops within an extended crop rotation can minimize risk of certain crop diseases, insects and weeds.

Use economic thresholds when deciding when to take control measures for pests. Refer to the current Guide to Crop Protection and other literature for these thresholds. Eradication of pests is rarely a realistic goal. Saving pesticide applications for when pest numbers are above the economical threshold is cost effective while reducing pesticide exposure and increasing populations of beneficial organisms.

Combine various strategies to reduce pest populations. These include biological, mechanical, cultural and chemical methods. There are many examples of these strategies. Crop varieties have been bred for disease and insect resistance. Increased seeding rates improve crop competitiveness with weeds. Perennial forages in a crop rotation will reduce certain pests. Mechanical tillage may reduce certain pests, however steps should be taken to reduce erosion risk and keep soil organic matter levels up. Certain insects have been released as biological control agents for leafy spurge and scentless chamomile throughout the province.



Less wild oats are present when a higher seeding rate is used.

Finally, evaluate various strategies used in the past to help with future decision making. Be open to tweaking or changing strategies as required.

For More Information

- Access the Guide to Crop Protection on the Ministry of Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca | About Agriculture | Production | Crops-Overview | Guide to Crop Protection;
- Contact Brent Flaten, Integrated Pest Management Specialist in Moose Jaw at (306) 694-3714 or via e-mail at brent.flaten@gov.sk.ca.

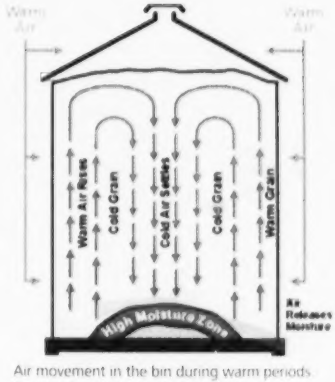
SPRING GRAIN MONITORING AND AERATION

by Sean Miller, AAg
Intern Agrologist
Crops Branch

Monitoring stored grain following harvest is an important part of a producer's activities. With spring just around the corner, it is now time to start thinking about grain in storage. If high moisture grain went into storage late in the fall and environmental conditions did not allow for drying, often the only solution is temperature management.

Warmer temperatures in the spring, combined with high moisture grain, can lead to significant amounts of spoilage in stored grain. As the stored grain warms with spring temperatures, insect activity will resume. It is vital to monitor both variations in temperature and insect activity in stored grains.

Increasing temperatures in the spring will warm the grain next to the bin walls, but the grain in the centre of the bin remains cool. This results in moisture migrating upwards and turning in at the top of the grain mass. Next, moisture moves downward through the cooler centre of the grain mass with moisture accumulation due to condensation occurring at the bottom of the bin. In the winter, the reverse process of moisture migration occurs. In addition, wet zones can also form in the grain when precipitation gets into the bin through open lids, ventilators and cracks in the roof or walls.



Air movement in the bin during warm periods
Source: Cereal Research Centre, AAFC.

Moisture content is only one factor in providing safe, long-term storage. The temperature of stored grain is also important. If grain is going to remain in storage throughout the spring and summer months, it should be re-warmed in early spring to ensure safe storage. Spring aeration will assist in warming cold grain in the centre of the bin, creating a uniform temperature throughout the bin. The grain temperature should be slowly warmed to approximately 10°C. To ensure efficient and cost effective aeration, producers should run aeration fans when the grain temperature falls 5°C below the average daytime temperature.

If excess moisture or an insect problem is discovered in stored grain, immediate action is required to protect the grain from further deterioration. Even small amounts of deterioration can substantially decrease the value and marketability.

Time spent monitoring stored grain is time well spent. Remember, a large amount of time and money has been invested getting the grain this far.

For More Information

- Refer to the "Grain Storage Considerations - FAQs" document on the Ministry of Agriculture website www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca | About Agriculture | Production | Crops – Storage | Grain Storage Considerations – FAQs; or
- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Cost of Production – Forage and Hay

by Andre Bonneau, PAg
Forage Management Specialist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

It's been estimated that two-thirds of the cost of livestock production is feed and that two-thirds of the feed cost is winter feeding. When we try to reduce feeding costs, we often think about buying lower-priced feed, using alternative feeds or feeding more efficiently.

Grass/Alfalfa hay in Spiritwood, SK

In addition to these feeding strategies, examine the production of the feed itself.

The cost of forage and hay production involves establishment, maintenance (fertility), cutting, baling and hauling. Establishment costs depend on the species seeded, seeding rate and soil preparation. Maintenance cost involves fertility for sustained production. Return on investment and municipal taxes should also be considered as an annual cost.

The following example assumes a yield of 1.5 ton per acre (3,275 kg per hectare) and the cost of forage establishment, taxes and return on investment to be $15 per ton or $0.016 per kg.

The cost of cutting hay is $15.33 per acre or $37.55 per hectare (*Farm Machinery Custom and Rental Rate Guide 2008-09*). In our example, the cost of cutting the hay is $10.22 per ton or $0.015 per kg. The cost of producing a 5'x 6' bale is $11.30 per bale (twine included). If the bale weighs 1,300 lb. (591 kg) and the yield is 1.5 ton per acre (3275 kg per ha), baling works out to $26.08 per ton or $0.028 per kg.

In the example above, the cost of producing hay works out to $51.30 per ton or $0.056 per kg. Note that the hay hasn't been removed from the field or handled in the feed yard.

Use your own production values to get a good handle on your own costs. Higher yields reduce the cost per ton. If your production costs are higher than the purchase price, look for ways to increase your efficiency or consider purchasing a portion of your feed. Purchasing feed allows you the option of grazing the hay stand.

Once costs are identified, management decisions can be made to reduce feeding costs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at [illegible] or
- Contact your nearest Regional Services Office or the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

DETERMINING RANGE HEALTH ASSISTS IN PLANNING GRAZING

by Christy Winquist, PAg
Beef-Forage Specialist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

Determining the condition or health of pastures and native rangeland is a key step in successful grazing management. Range condition or health will identify problems on the land and provide recommended stocking rate guidelines, taking the land's present condition in mind. Range health, a recent variation on range condition, takes into consideration soil stability, weeds and vegetation diversity, as well as plant species composition.

How does condition affect production?

Rangelands that are in poor condition have fewer high-producing, palatable plants, and may have inadequate soil protection, which can increase soil erosion, reduce water retention and increase weed problems. Pastures and rangelands that are in poor condition will support fewer animals and take longer to recover from grazing.

Native grasses in the Swift Current area

Range health assessments look at more factors than the traditional range condition assessments. Range health is assessed by determining plants and communities, percentage bare ground, extent of erosion occurring, amount of plant litter on the soil surface, diversity of plant types and invasive plants present.

Range condition or health score has a profound impact on productivity. Using the old range condition stocking rate guidelines, native rangeland in poor condition can decrease the stocking rate to 0.23 animal unit month (AUM) per acre from 0.45 AUM per acre on excellent condition rangeland. Tame pastures that are in poor condition yield only a quarter of the potential for the area, resulting in significantly lower stocking rates or shorter grazing periods.

There are tools available to determine the health of rangelands. Recently, the Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan, with support from several government and non-government agencies, developed a field workbook for determining range health. The workbook provides background on the assessment, the procedure used to determine health and scoring forms used to record necessary information when scoring. Range health is scored out of 100, and sites are classified as healthy, healthy with problems or unhealthy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- or to obtain copies of the Range Health Assessment Field Guide, contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Estimating Dry Matter Intake

by Murray Feist, PAg, MSc
Ruminant Nutrition Specialist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

Forage quality is an important factor in predicting daily intake by a cow.

Cows are able to consume more of an excellent quality forage than of a poor quality forage because there is a larger amount of indigestible fibre in poor quality forages.

Feed Quality	Dry Matter Digestibility (%)	Dry Matter Intake % Body Weight
Excellent Quality Hay	65	3.0
Very Good Hay	60	2.5
Medium Quality Hay	55	2.0
Poor Hay, Barley Straw	45	1.5
Wheat Straw	35-40	1.0
Silage	60-65	2.5 - 3.0

Dry matter intake as a percentage of body weight decreases as feed digestibility decreases (See Table). High quality forages are considered to contain greater than 59 per cent total digestible nutrients (TDN); medium quality forages 52 - 59 per cent TDN; low quality forages 50 - 52 per cent TDN; and straw 44 - 50 per cent TDN.

The values in the table are for estimating dry matter intake. A rule of thumb calculation is the maximum ***as-fed*** calculation for straw consumption: multiply the body weight of the cow by 1.25 per cent.

For a 1,200-pound cow, the as-fed straw intake would be 15 pounds. Based on the table below, a 1,200-pound cow is capable of consuming straw dry matter at a level of 1.0 - 1.5 per cent of body weight or 12 - 18 pounds dry matter. Assuming that the straw contains 12 per cent moisture, converting 12 - 18 pounds of straw dry matter is equivalent to 13.6 - 20 pounds as-fed.

If the producer is planning for a straw-based ration, both methods are suitable for estimating dry matter intake. It is important to remember that straw diets require adequate supplementation of energy, protein, minerals and vitamins to ensure a healthy balance.

Conclusion

Forage quality is the primary factor affecting the estimated daily feed intake of a cow. As forage dry-matter digestibility decreases, the intake level of that forage also decreases. Forage intake levels will also be greatly influenced by cow body-condition, body weight and stage of production, such as gestation or lactation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Phone Murray Feist, Ruminant Nutrition Specialist, Agriculture Knowledge Centre, at 1-866-457-2377.

CUSTOM SERVICES LISTINGS

by Andre Bonneau, PAg
Forage Management Specialist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

The Agriculture Knowledge Centre reminds farmers and ranchers that custom services can be advertised on the new Forage, Feed Grain and Custom Services Listing on the Ministry's website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca. Entrance to the Listing is found as follows:

- scroll down the front page of the website to a highlighted green area called Shortcuts;
- click on the words Forage, Feed Grain and Custom Services Listing, which will take you to the separate Listings page;
- scroll down the page until you see the words Listing Service, then click on the highlighted words Register New User.

While custom services advertising had always been available as part of the original listing service, the custom services portion of the bulletin board has been reorganized to make the listing easier to use.

The updated service has separate categories for hay and silage, livestock operations, crop production services and a catch-all category for other services.

To register a service, set up an account on the website. The instructions are relatively straightforward. After registering your contact information on the website, you can choose a service category and make your selections. The electronic form will ask you a variety of questions, including the end date for your search or sale and the number of your rural municipality. In the Asking Price per Unit category, don't enter a dollar sign because that will stall the electronic form. At the end of the form, there's space for comments and descriptions. Resource agents at the Agriculture Knowledge Centre will review your listing. If they notice an inconsistency, they will call you to check your information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1- 866-457-2377, or
- Phone your nearest Regional Services Office.

CHANGES TO THE LIVESTOCK LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM BENEFIT SHEEP PRODUCERS

by Judy MacMillan, Provincial Supervisor,
Livestock Loan Guarantee Program
Financial Programs Branch

The Livestock Loan Guarantee (LLG) Program provides producers with alternative financing options for livestock purchases, and may be used as a management tool to generate cash flow through retained ownership of livestock by producer associations.

The Sheep Feeder/Breeder Option has been in place since 1999 to allow provincial sheep producers access to the LLG Program. To accomplish this, a province-wide sheep association, Sask First Lamb Feeder Co-op Ltd., was created. Sheep producers can apply for membership and then obtain financing for the purchase of feeder wethers or ewe lambs, pregnant females less than four years of age and non-pregnant females less than four years of age with a lamb(s) at foot.

The LLG Program approved increases to the individual member loan limits in both the feeder and breeder options. Previously, there was a limit in both options to a $25,000 maximum. These approved changes provide producers with the following limits regarding feeder and breeder option loans:

Level 1 The first year limit increased to $35,000.

Level 2 The second year limit is $70,000 for a member who's been an active member for at least one year.

Level 3 The third year limit is $100,000 for a member who's been an active member for at least two years.

All loan increases are subject to association, lender and provincial supervisor approval.

Key producer benefits include a source of credit at competitive interest rates, ability to purchase sheep during times of limited cash flow due to minimal assurance fund deposit and additional security for the lender through an assurance fund and a government guarantee.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Livestock Loan Guarantee office in Saskatoon at (306) 933-5745 or in Regina at (306) 787-1438; or
- Sask First Lamb Feeder Co-operative Ltd. at (306) 466-2142.

Where are your cattle today?

by Cam Wilk, PAg
Manager, Livestock Inspection Services
Livestock Branch

Livestock can go missing – of their own volition, or with a little help from rustlers.

There are steps producers can take to prevent loss. However, Saskatchewan's cattle producers must remain vigilant about caring for their animals because there are occasions when cattle – and rustlers – get the jump on a cattle producer. What then?

In preparation for just this situation, Saskatchewan Agriculture's Livestock Branch recommends that all cattle producers register their livestock brands, keep detailed records, check their cattle often in the pastures and complete livestock manifests when the cattle are transported.

Producers need to report missing livestock immediately to three offices: the nearest detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the nearest Saskatchewan Agriculture Livestock Inspector and your rural municipality administrator. When reporting missing livestock to any enforcement agency, a producer will be asked to provide the animals' descriptions and the location and date the animals were last seen by the producer.

Saskatchewan Agriculture will alert its network of Saskatchewan livestock inspectors across Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Alberta's Livestock Inspection Services also receives Saskatchewan's missing cattle reports.

A producer's livestock records are of utmost importance in helping law enforcement agencies to find missing animals. The records contain detailed descriptions of each animal: the breed, sex, age, weight, body condition, whether or not the females are pregnant, the individual brands and other means of identification, such as Canadian Cattle Inspection Agency (CCIA) tags.

The brand is most important. Saskatchewan Agriculture encourages all livestock producers to obtain a brand and register it with the Ministry's Livestock Branch. The brand indicates that you are the owner, regardless of where the animal is located. Registered brands can be maintained for a four-year period or for a lifetime. While there are new types of animal identification technologies on the market, a registered brand remains the best method for animal identification.

Brands can be obtained on application to the Brand Registrar's Office of Saskatchewan Agriculture. Application forms are available at any one of the Ministry's Livestock Inspection Offices across the province. Further information and services are available through your nearest District Livestock Inspection Office. The numbers are listed at the conclusion of this article.

The table below is a sample of active missing-livestock files currently under investigation.

Saskatchewan's livestock inspectors are located in the following districts and communities. To report missing livestock, please contact your nearest Livestock Inspection Office at the number listed below.

- North East District (Yorkton), Phone (306) 786-5712: Mistatim, Sheho, Lintlaw, Tisdale, Ituna, Rhein, Melville, Wynyard.
- North Central District (Saskatoon), Phone (306) 933-7660: Humboldt, Englefeld, Hafford, Marengo, Elrose.
- NorthWest District (North Battleford), Phone (306) 446-7404: Makwa, Spiritwood, Lloyminster, Paddockwood, Paradise Hill, Dorintosh, Prince Albert, Meadow Lake, Frenchman Butte, Marshall.
- South East District (Moosomin), Phone (306) 435-4582: Kennedy, Arcola, Alameda, Montmarte, Weyburn.
- South Central District (Moose Jaw), Phone (306) 694-3709: Craik, Assiniboia, Briercrest, Verwood, Mankota, Flintoft.
- South West District (Swift Current), Phone (306) 778-8312: Success, Walsh, Wymark, Hodgeville, Lancer, Eastend, Stewart Valley, Shaunavon, Maple Creek.
- Manitoba (Winnipeg), Phone (204) 694-0830: Reston, Melita, Minitonas, Rapid City, Headingly, Virden, Sifton.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit Saskatchewan Agriculture's website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca for information about livestock inspection and brand registration, including the database of Saskatchewan brands. On the left-hand side of the main website page look under Resources | About Agriculture; click on Programs and Services; scroll down to Livestock Inspection Services;
- Phone your nearest Livestock Inspection Office at the numbers listed above; or
- Phone Cam Wilk, Manager, Livestock Inspection Services at (306) 787-2195.

Active Saskatchewan Missing Livestock Files

Missing from	Number of head	Animal description	Brand description	Brand Location	RCMP subdivision	Livestock Branch Contact	Date Reported
Spiritwood area	34	Black Calves	FLY PTU OVR 6	Left Hip	Spiritwood	North Battleford 446-7571	12/03/08
Bright Sand Pasture	19	Unspecified colour cows	M A R S OVR B	Left Hip	Turtleford	North Battleford 446-7571	12/10/08
Jansen area	19	Cows with calves	LZR J OVR C or C OVR FLY PT D Calves not branded	Right Rib	Lanigan	Saskatoon 933-6781	10/23/08

New Publication Available – Irrigation Scheduling Manual

by Sarah Sommerfeld, PAg
Irrigation Agrologist
Irrigation Branch

The *Irrigation Scheduling Manual*, published last fall by Saskatchewan Agriculture, guides an irrigator through the scheduling process, and provides the relevant technical information to assist irrigators in making scheduling decisions.

The manual identifies the four key items an irrigator must know to effectively schedule water applications:

- soil texture;
- water holding capacity of the soil;
- soil moisture content; and
- crop water use at specific development stages.

To assist irrigators in making scheduling decisions, the manual describes different methods and equipment available to determine soil texture and soil moisture content. With respect to crop water use, the manual summarizes the daily and total seasonal water requirements and peak water use periods of irrigated crops grown in Saskatchewan. It also describes the appropriate irrigation termination periods for these specific crops.

The impact of irrigation system operation limitations are described briefly. The manual indicates that, even with a thorough scheduling program, a crop may still lack sufficient water if a producer does not account for system limitations.

Agrologists with Saskatchewan Agriculture's Irrigation Branch are located in Outlook and Swift Current. They work in co-operation with the Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation (ICDC) to provide technical, on-farm assistance to irrigators throughout the province with respect to irrigation agronomics, scheduling and crop budgets.

To obtain a copy of the *Irrigation Scheduling Manual*, contact Sarah Sommerfeld, Irrigation Agrologist, in Outlook at (306) 867-5521, or Korvin Olfert, PAg, Irrigation Agrologist, in Swift Current at (306) 778-5041.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Phone the Irrigation Branch office in Outlook at (306) 867-5500.

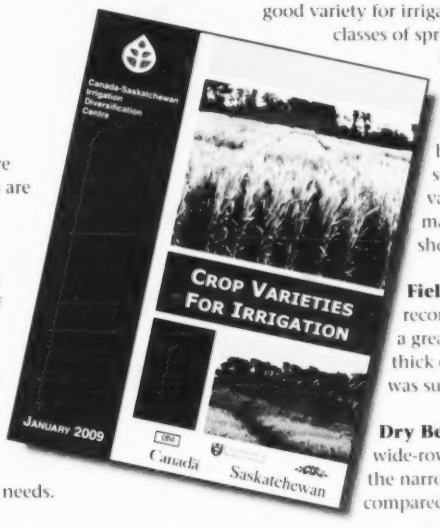
IRRIGATION CROP VARIETIES FOR 2009

by Gerry Gross, PAg
Senior Irrigation Specialist
Irrigation Branch

The Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre (CSIDC) provides ongoing variety testing of field crops to ensure Saskatchewan irrigators know which varieties are the most suitable for their farms.

High yielding varieties are often most in demand, however, other factors, such as days to maturity and lodging resistance, may be of equal importance.

Variety development is proceeding rapidly in many field crops as seed companies aggressively compete for market share. CSIDC attempts to place all varieties on a level "irrigation" playing field and allow irrigators to select the varieties that suit their needs.



A brief summary of the variety information available in the 2009 CSIDC publication called *Crop Varieties for Irrigation* is as follows:

Canola – The variety 45H21 is the check. Seven varieties surpassed it in the tests, out yielding the check by one to 14 per cent. A number of the high yielding varieties are already sold out for 2009.

Flax – CDC Bethune continues to be a variety of choice under irrigation. New varieties challenging CDC Bethune are Prairie Thunder and Prairie Blue. The variety Prairie Grande will not be available for 2009.

Spring Wheat – AC Barrie remains the check and it continues to be a good variety for irrigation, however, it is rated against a number of other classes of spring wheat which are perhaps more suited for irrigation.

Barley – AC Metcalfe remains the check and has been rated against a number of good malt and feed barleys in the test. For malt barley, it is important to stay connected to the malt industry and grow varieties which are preferred by the buyers. Both marketing considerations and irrigation evaluations should be used by the grower in variety selection.

Field Pea – Semi-leafless varieties only are recommended for irrigation as normal leaf varieties have a greater potential for disease development within the thick canopy. Cutlass is the check variety for 2008 and it was surpassed by 19 yellow and five green pea varieties.

Dry Bean – Othello remains the check variety in the wide-row variety trials. CDC Pintium is the check variety of the narrow row trials. Yields and variety rankings cannot be compared between wide-row and narrow-row trials.

Information on fababeans, oilseed sunflowers, annual forages, alfalfa, timothy and potatoes is also included in the CSIDC publication.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the website [illegible] to view the 2009 *Crop Varieties for Irrigation*;
- Phone Terry Hogg at CSIDC, (306) 867-5400, to obtain a hard copy of the document; or
- Phone the Irrigation Branch, Saskatchewan Agriculture at (306) 867-5500.

Biosecurity – Where have your boots been?

by Dr. Mary VanderKop
Disease Surveillance Veterinarian
Animal Health Unit, Livestock Branch

Biosecurity is about being aware of how disease can spread and taking steps to block that spread. For instance, what bacteria and viruses do you carry on your boots or clothes when you drop by the post office or the grocery store? What do you pick up when you wander through a sales yard?

Manure control is key to biosecurity. It starts with washing off the manure. Don't track it with you – away from your farm or back to your farm.

Any facility where people and animals are mixed has the potential to spread disease. While farmers have the ultimate responsibility to keep disease off their farm, auction markets, show grounds, veterinary clinics and boarding or training stables must also be conscientious about biosecurity. Animals that have been transported are often stressed and are more likely to be shedding bacteria or viruses. A boot wash station with effective disinfectant that is regularly changed (so it stays visibly clean) is a minimum requirement for entry to livestock areas.

Boot wash station with disinfectant.

Visitor log books to record the name and phone number of all visitors each day can help stop a disease outbreak. This contact information can provide the early warning people need if a disease is detected in a facility they visited. Think about suggesting this to businesses you visit.

Hand sanitizer has become common place in many establishments and is a good substitute for washing with soap and water. Either is an essential step before visiting the concession booth after handling livestock. Similarly, coveralls can keep manure off your clothing, but you don't want to wear them to the restaurant next door or to the auction market. Livestock manure can carry bacteria such as Salmonella and E. coli that can infect people, and it doesn't take much manure to contaminate your food. Staying clean is a good first step in biosecurity.

- Contact the Animal Health Unit, Saskatchewan Agriculture at (306) 787-2150; or
- Visit the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website at www.inspection.gc.ca and click on Animal/Diseases | Biosecurity/Prevention.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT A PANDEMIC

Pandemic influenza results from a mutation of a known flu virus. The mutation produces a new strain for which there is no proven vaccine. It is also characteristically highly contagious and potent. A pandemic can spread across a large region such as a continent, or even worldwide.

Pandemic influenza has occurred on average approximately once every 30 to 40 years since the 1600s. The Spanish Flu in 1918 resulted in the death of an estimated 30,000 to 50,000 Canadians and 20 to 40 million people worldwide. The most recent pandemic, the Hong Kong Flu in 1968 to 1969, killed less than one million people worldwide.

The World Health Organization (WHO), which is responsible for declaring a global pandemic, is currently monitoring H5N1 - a strain of avian influenza or "bird flu". Although avian influenza normally infects only birds, and less commonly pigs, H5N1 has been known to spread to humans and is responsible for the deaths of 241 people. To date, the majority of these fatalities occurred in Southeast Asia.

While there is no need to panic, it is important to plan in advance. This includes making preparations at home and at work. At home, ensure you have an adequate supply of food and water on hand for each member of your family. At work, inquire about your organization's plans for pandemic preparedness.

Be proactive! Plan ahead for your family's personal health and safety.

- On how to prepare for an emergency, visit the Government of Canada's website at http://www.getprepared.ca/knowledge/index-eng.aspx.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Saskatchewan Agriculture is constantly updating the wealth of information it makes available to Saskatchewan residents. You can download the most current version of any document posted on our website. You can also call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at **1-866-457-2377** to request a hard copy of many items. Below is a list of the latest documents posted, as well as the most frequently visited pages, on Saskatchewan Agriculture's website at: www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

Blackleg Disease of Canola - Blackleg is a serious disease of canola that can result in significant yield loss in susceptible varieties. **Visit:** Production | Crops-Disease.

Effect of Fall Frost on Seed Quality - When early fall frosts impact immature crops, seed quality can be drastically impaired. **Visit:** Production | Crops-Harvesting.

2008 Special Crops Processors Survey - The goals of the Special Crops Processors Survey is to gather data that will assist industry stakeholders in assessing the scope and nature of the special crops processing sector, and to provide primary producers with information about processors and the services they offer. **Visit:** Statistics | Crops.

Crop Planning Guides - Provides information that can help estimate the income and cost of production for different crops on summer fallow and stubble in the various soil zones in the province. **Visit:** Management | Financial Planning.

Guide to Crop Protection - Provides information on the use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides for control of weeds, plant diseases and insects. **Visit**: Production | Crops-Overview.

Varieties of Grain Crops - Provides information on the relative yields for the different growing regions in the province and production information on crops, including a list of seed distributors. **Visit:** Production | Crops-Seeding.

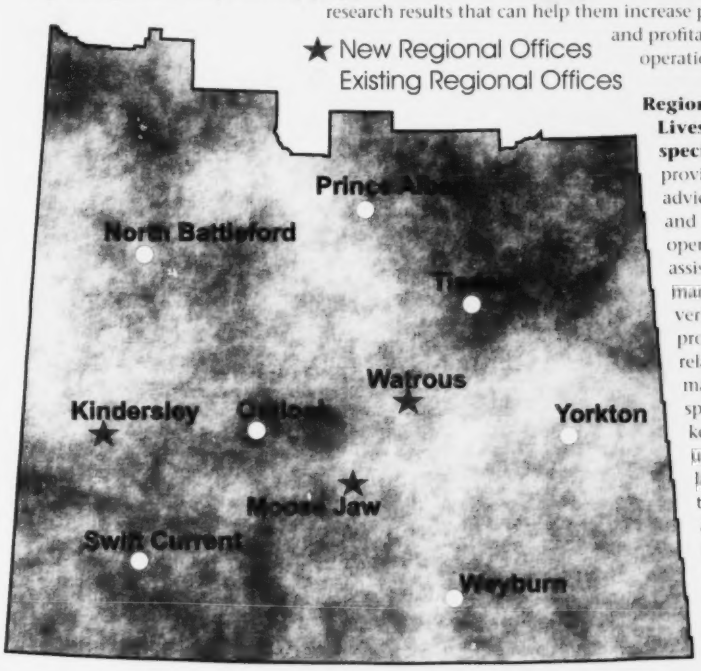
What are regional services anyway?

On January 29, Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture Bob Bjornerud made a commitment to rural Saskatchewan. The announcement of enhanced regional services to Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers returns the Ministry's focus to the farm gate, where it belongs.

The enhancements ensure that producers in all areas of the province have access to Ministry expertise when making production and business decisions. Saskatchewan Agriculture will open three new regional services offices in Kindersley, Watrous and Moose Jaw, resulting in a total of 10 Ministry of Agriculture regional offices and a renewed presence across rural Saskatchewan.

Each office will be staffed with a regional crops, livestock, forage and farm business management specialist. Regional specialists will be available for on-farm visits and to meet with producers one-on-one.

Regional Crops specialists assist producers with a wide range of questions related to crop choices, rotation, soil fertility and fertilizers, weed control, crop insect and diseases and general crop management. They also help plug producers into the latest technical knowledge and research results that can help them increase productivity and profitability on their operations.



Regional Livestock specialists provide nutritional advice to cow/calf and feedlot operators and assist in feeding, marketing, age verification and production related decision making. These specialists also keep producers updated on the latest technology available, inform them on government programs affecting the livestock industry and help create networks between industry and producers. Livestock producers are often faced with unexpected challenges such as feed and water quality issues or market disruptions. Regional livestock specialists can provide localized information to help producers react quickly to issues affecting their operations.

Regional Forage specialists help forage producers with the production and economic aspects of forage production, including species selection, seeding, establishment, harvest and management. They provide agronomic advice for weed, insect and disease control. Forage specialists also help livestock producers with grazing management.

Regional Farm Business Management specialists help farmers adopt progressive farm business management practices and strategies. They start by helping farmers take stock in nine areas – business strategy, marketing strategy, production, human resources, financial management, succession planning, business structure, risk assessment and the environment. By identifying needs and providing access to business information, training and private consulting services, farm business management specialists help farmers enhance profitability and achieve their business goals.

Regional specialist expertise is available to Saskatchewan producers right now. Drop by the nearest Saskatchewan Agriculture regional office to meet the regional services team.

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Regional Offices

Moose Jaw
45 Thatcher Drive East
1-866-457-2377

Outlook
420 Saskatchewan Avenue W
1-306-867-5575

North Battleford
1192-102nd Street
1-306-446-7964

Prince Albert
800 Central Avenue
1-306-953-2363

Swift Current
350 Cheadle Street W
1-306-778-8218

Tisdale
1105-99th Street
1-306-878-8842

Weyburn
110 Souris Avenue
1-306-848-2857

Yorkton
38-5th Avenue N
1-306-786-1531

Opening April 1st:
Watrous
403 Main Street

Coming soon!
Kindersley

Did you know:

Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers can also access Ministry expertise by phone. The Agriculture Knowledge Centre, located in Moose Jaw, continues to be an option for immediate and specialized answers to technical enquiries. Call 1-866-457-2377

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Changes will improve Crop Insurance program

The Government of Saskatchewan is implementing 12 of 16 recommendations from the 2008 Crop Insurance Review. For the 2009 program, Crop Insurance is enhancing program features; offering improved pricing options; increasing the coverage offered to producers; and decreasing premium costs.

Coverage is increasing through the introduction of two methodologies: yield trending and yield cushioning. Yield trending will increase the coverage offered to producers to reflect improved yields resulting from agronomic advancements. Trending will apply to canola, identity preserved canola, fall rye and winter wheat, which had the most significant and positive trends in all areas and land uses across the province. On average, yield coverage will increase 11 per cent for canola and IP canola and 9.5 per cent for fall rye and winter wheat.

Yield cushioning is being introduced as a pilot project. Yield cushioning

Cam Swan, General Manager of Crop Insurance, and Agriculture Minster Bob Bjornerud announce crop insurance changes in Melville, SK.

will limit the impact of a poor growing season on an individual's coverage level. This pilot will help producers who have experienced losses, for example due to drought, in consecutive years. Poor yields from 2005 to 2007 will be brought up to 70 per cent of a producer's long-term individual yield. The pilot project will increase producers' yields by up to 10 per cent. There will be approximately 2,000 producers across Saskatchewan eligible for this pilot project.

Saskatchewan producers will now receive 100 per cent compensation for crop damage caused by wildlife through the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. Previously, producers were only receiving 80 per cent compensation. Wildlife damage compensation is available to all Saskatchewan producers, not only Crop Insurance customers.

Crop Insurance is also decreasing the producer's share of premium costs in the Enhanced Irrigation Pilot Program. In 2008, irrigation producers paid 66.7 per cent of the premium cost. Now producers will be responsible for 40 per cent.

A new In-Season Pricing Option offers coverage levels based on a six month average of actual prices from September 2009 to February 2010. This will better reflect actual market conditions, rather than using price forecasts. An interim payment will be made when the claim is processed and a final payment will be issued after prices are finalized in February 2010.

Crop Insurance is also setting the premium rates for the Variable Price Option and In-Season Price Option in March, when contracts are signed. Previously, premium values for the Variable Price Option were not determined until the final price forecasts were established in July. By setting premiums in March, producers have added certainty and security.

Crop Insurance has improved pedigreed seed and organic pricing programs. Price factors will now be more representative of market values for pedigreed seed producers. The price factor for pedigreed seed will now increase from 1.2 to 1.3 times the commercial price for oats, barley and peas.

The list of organic crops eligible under the Contract Price Option is also expanding. New organic crops eligible for the Contract Price Option include organic wheat and durum, organic fall and spring rye, and organic triticale.

Experience discounts have been improved. Producers with proven management capabilities will now have a greater chance to retain their 50 per cent premium discount.

Establishment payment levels, which provide compensation for crops that fail to establish by June 20, are also increasing. Canola establishment payments are increasing $25 to $45 per acre, while most wheat varieties are increasing from $20 to $25. Compensation levels will be reviewed annually.

Crop Insurance will continue to proactively promote crop insurance programs. If there is any part of your insurance coverage you have questions about, speak to your local customer service representative. We have the answers and are here to help you.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Speak to your local customer service office;
- Call our customer service line at 1-888-935-0000; or
- Visit www.saskcropinsurance.com.

Agricultural Crown Land Sale Update

by Wally Hoehn
Acting Manager, Crown Land Services
Lands Branch

On November 15, 2008 the Ministry of Agriculture began offering crown lessees a new five-year sales program.

The Agricultural Crown Land Sales Program includes a 10 per cent discount off the sale price in the first year, decreasing by two per cent per year over the next four years, and a new financing alternative to the cash sale. The new financing option under the program requires 50 per cent of the sale price paid at the time of sale and provision of a payment schedule guarantee from a recognized financial institution or Farm Credit Canada. The payment schedule guarantee requires the payment of the remaining 50 per cent of the purchase price over four years in four equal payments.

The program has received an overwhelming number of inquiries—more than 3,000. Clients have inquired about purchasing approximately 1.6 million acres of crown land that they are currently leasing. Applications to purchase continue to be received at an average rate of more than 45 per week.

More than 36,000 acres have been appraised by Ministry staff and private appraisers. Under the program, clients are able to choose to have the land valued by Ministry staff at no cost or to have it valued by a private accredited appraiser at their own cost. The cost of a private appraisal is deducted from the value of the land if the client follows through on the purchase. The new program is only available to current agricultural lessees.

Vacant crown land that is eligible for sale continues to be sold by public tender or catalogue sale. There are currently 22 parcels listed for sale under the catalogue listing. More information on this land - including selling price - can be found on the Ministry's website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca or by contacting a Ministry regional office.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- In the northeast region, contact Gordon Bue, Regional Manager in Tisdale at (306) 878-8813;
- In the northwest region, contact Jim Schmidt, Regional Manager in North Battleford at (306) 446-7449; or
- In the south region, contact Lorne Veitch, Regional Manager in Swift Current at (306) 778-8300.

BIOFUEL BY-PRODUCTS SHOW POTENTIAL AS SOIL AMENDMENTS

A greenhouse study by Saskatchewan Strategic Research Program chair Dr. Jeff Schoenau and his team at the University of Saskatchewan suggests that the by-products of producing biofuel and other processed crop commodities could be used to increase soil fertility.

With support from Saskatchewan Agriculture's Agriculture Development Fund, Dr. Schoenau's team grew canola in soil amended with a variety of processing by-products – dehydrated alfalfa, wet and dry distillers grain, thin stillage and glycerol – and then measured plant biomass and nutrient uptake, and soil properties.

They found that the alfalfa, distillers grain and stillage increased the supply of available nitrogen (N) and other soil nutrients, and resulted in increased canola biomass yield. The alfalfa and two distillers grains appear to be a better source of plant-available nitrogen than manure and compost, owing to their relatively high N content. Thin stillage is quite similar to liquid hog manure in its properties and behaviour but contains a better balance of N:S (Sulfer) and N:P (Phosphorus) that is more in line with crop requirements. Glycerol increased the soil's organic carbon content, but still required supplemental fertilizer to offset the immobilization of nitrogen resulting from the decomposing glycerol.

None of the amendments seemed to increase soil salinity or pH, and the canola's metal uptake was the same as with a commercial fertilizer. It was found, however, that the highest rates of application of the two distillers grains resulted in reduced crop germination and emergence.

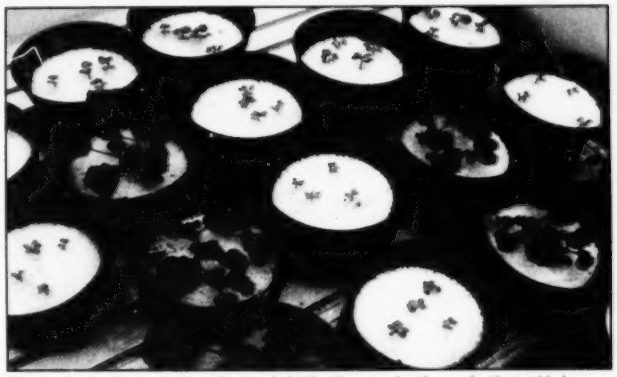
"What this means," said Mitchell Japp, Program Manager with the Agriculture Research Branch, "is that the biofuel by-products which are typically seen as cattle feed may also have potential as soil fertility amendments."

Field-scale testing of these amendments is warranted, and field trials with thin stillage began this past fall.

To obtain the final report, *Potential for Using Biofuel and Processing By-Products as Soil Amendments to Increase Fertility*, phone the Agriculture Research Branch at (306) 787-5929 or download it from the Ministry's website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca, or
- Call Dr. Jeff Schoenau, University of Saskatchewan, at (306) 966-6844.



Canola plants growing in glycerol amended soil without and with urea fertilizer added.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PHONE	INTERNET
Apr. 1	AgriStability and AgriInvest Information Session	Humboldt	1-866-367-8506	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Apr. 1 - 2	AgriStability and AgriInvest Individual Producer Appointments	Humboldt	1-866-367-8506	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Apr. 1	AgriStability and AgriInvest Information Session	North Battleford	1-866-367-8506	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Apr. 1 - 3	AgriStability and AgriInvest Individual Producer Appointments	North Battleford	1-866-367-8506	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Apr. 3	AgriStability and AgriInvest Individual Producer Appointments	Raymore	1-866-367-8506	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Apr. 6	AgriStability and AgriInvest Information Session	Kindersley	1-866-367-8506	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Apr. 6 - 7	AgriStability and AgriInvest Individual Producer Appointments	Kindersley	1-866-367-8506	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Apr. 8	AgriStability and AgriInvest Information Session	Outlook	1-866-367-8506	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Apr. 8 - 9	AgriStability and AgriInvest Individual Producer Appointments	Outlook	1-866-367-8506	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Apr. 22 - 23	Western Canadian Livestock Expo	Saskatoon	1-888-931-9333	www.saskatoonex.com

Saskatchewan Cattle and Hog Support Program

The Ministry of Agriculture is taking action to help Saskatchewan's cattle and hog producers by providing more than $71 million in financial assistance.

Producers are eligible for:

- $40 per head for all beef breeding cows and bred beef heifers;
- $20 per market hog sold directly for slaughter; and
- $10 per pig for all iso-weanlings/weanlings/feeder hogs sold for further feeding or fed outside of Canada from July 1, 2008, through and including January 31, 2009.

Applications for the Saskatchewan Cattle and Hog Support Program are available from local RM offices, any Ministry of Agriculture Regional Office, by visiting www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca, e-mailing CHSPinquiry@gov.sk.ca or by calling toll-free 1-866-947-9113.

Application deadline for the program is June 15, 2009.

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture